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FREE INSIDE WEEKEND TV GUIDE

Work begins on latest upgrade to Festival Place
Page 3

Charity gets cash boost from Ryanair
Page 7

FREE TAKE ONE

Send Steve your support to help him at Christmas

• Accident victim Steve North

Calls for video messages after victim loses his leg

By Christian Wilson

A CAMPAIGN has been started to help bring some Christmas cheer to a Basingstoke man in hospital.

Steve North suffered potentially life-threatening injuries on September 28, after being struck by two cars and knocked off Worting Road Bridge.

The 38-year-old was walking along the pavement when a car mounted the kerb and knocked him off the bridge and onto the A340 Ringway West below, where he was then struck by another vehicle as he lay on the carriageway.

He was immediately rushed to Southampton General Hospital, where he was put into a medically induced coma, after breaking both his legs, ankles, shattering his pelvis and fracturing his coccyx.

But after going through several operations, and having to have his right leg amputated from the knee down on December 3, Steve is now, against all the odds, on the mend.

Just as remarkable has been the outpouring of support from the Basingstoke public since the accident, with a campaign from Facebook group 'Basingstoke Memories' helping raise more than £2,200 to help with Steve's recovery.

And creator of the page, Marc Neun, is now appealing to the community to come together again, by sending over videos or voice clips of encouragement to Steve, as he continues his rehabilitation at Salisbury hospital.

He said: "I'm not asking for money again, but a little bit of your time.

"I'd like to put a DVD together of messages of encouragement for Steve, [and] Christmas messages, as it looks like he won't be home for Christmas.

"Phone videos are fine, as is audio, if you don't want to send a video.

"Come on Basingstoke, let's send our best to Steve."

A number of other fundraising events have taken place across the

> *"I'd like to put a DVD together of messages of encouragement for Steve, [and] Christmas messages, as it looks like he won't be home for Christmas"*

Continues on page 3

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Leadership at surgery 'inadequate', rules CQC

By Christian Wilson

ROOKSDOWN'S only GP surgery has been told that it must improve by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Residents have been forced to visit the temporary Rooksdown Practice, in Park Prewett Road, for several years now, while construction of a permanent site has been delayed.

Work finally began on the new £2.7million surgery in July, more than three years after planning permission was granted by the borough council, with an opening date set for the end of spring next year.

This took place around the same time that the CQC visited the portable building however, with inspectors handing the GP the overall rating of "requires improvement" – just one mark above that necessary to see the practice put in "special measures".

Rooksdown Practice was not deemed to be "well-led" – receiving the worst rating of "inadequate", while it was also told to improve in the categories assessing whether the service was "safe", "effective", and "responsive".

The report said: "The registered provider did not ensure that care and treatment of service users was appropriate, met their needs, and reflected their preferences.

"We looked at 11 complaints received in the last 12 months and found that records did not fully demonstrate whether the process had been followed, and whether the matter had been resolved.

"The registered provider did not have suitable systems in place to ensure care and treatment was provided in a safe way."

More than 300 people signed a petition voicing residents' anger at the delay of a permanent GP in June, with one participant labelling the service at Rooksdown Practice as "appalling".

The practice is part of the same group that runs Crown Heights Medical Centre, in Alencon Link, which was rated "inadequate" last year.

But Rooksdown's councillor Simon Bound felt the feedback received from this year's protest had "in a low-level way" actually been worse in Rooksdown than Crown Heights.

He added: "Everyone is so unhappy with the primary care delivered in Rooksdown, so I'm not surprised by the CQC report.

"A lot of the feedback we received as part of the petition was that the service wasn't responsive, which is unacceptable. How are you supposed to maintain patient confidentiality in temporary accommodation?"

•Cllr Simon Bound and MP Maria Miller, pictured outside Rooksdown Practice, and (top) an artist's impression of the new £2.7m surgery

Rooksdown Practice was also rated as "good" by the CQC for being "caring", following the visit on July 21.

A spokesperson for the NHS North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which oversees the practice, said: "We have contacted the Rooksdown Practice in order to work together on improving the outcomes of the CQC inspection by assisting with the practice's action plan.

"We are currently waiting for a response from the practice so this can progress in the near future."

Council to release volunteer groups funding

VOLUNTARY and community groups from Basingstoke and Deane are being urged to apply for grant funding from the borough council.

The authority's 'Have your Say' initiative is making available grants of between £200 and £1,000 to local organisations.

Applications can be made until January 20, with all eligible requests received then being put forward to a vote, with the public deciding which projects they think will make the biggest impact in the community with the money.

The grants are open to any group that is managed by volunteers for no profit, has no restrictions on membership, is delivered within the borough, and can show evidence of a benefit to local residents.

Any organisation that can demonstrate the need for financial help, and schools that are projects beyond the school curriculum, can also apply for Have your Say funding.

The council's cabinet member for communities and community safety, Simon Bound, said: "Small grants can have a big impact, and we want to support local groups who are passionate about improving their communities.

"By asking residents to have their say, we are giving communities the opportunity to make sure that the grants go to the projects which they care about most."

To apply for funding, visit basingstoke.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

News Bites

Scout funding

OLD BASING: The borough council has granted £200,000 in funding to Old Basing Scouts and Guides group.

The group has been without a permanent home since 2009, when its former headquarters, the Baden-Powell Centre, was damaged by flooding.

A total of £400,000 is needed to fix the centre, in Milkingpen Lane, although cash provided by the council's local infrastructure fund will take the group a step closer.

Sex education

NORTH HAMPSHIRE: Suggestions that sex education should be made a compulsory subject at primary school have been slammed by Ranil Jayawardena.

The North East Hampshire MP feels that, at a time when there is growing alarm about the sexualisation of children, a national curriculum would "see control taken away" from parents and teachers.

At present, secondary schools are expected to teach sex education, although it is currently up to teachers to decide if it's appropriate – something that Basingstoke MP Maria Miller feels should be changed.

But Mr Jayawardena argued: "I am sorry to say that some local authorities recommend material that is totally unsuitable for children."

Protect poultry

HAMPSHIRE: Residents have been advised of new measures introduced by the Government to protect poultry against bird flu.

A protection zone against avian influenza has been declared in Hampshire, and across the UK until January 6.

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5G network set to boost town firms

By Christian Wilson

A PIONEERING mobile-tech facility will be opened in Basingstoke today in what is being called "an amazing opportunity" for the area.

The new 5G mobile network emulator at the Basing View innovation hub will allow tech start-ups and businesses in the town to access the fastest internet connection anywhere in the world.

• Borough council leader Clive Sanders

Chancellor Philip Hammond pledged £740million to develop ultra-fast 5G as part of his Autumn Statement last month, while also expressing his "ambition for the UK to be a world leader" in the technology.

The new emulator will be a first step towards this, with significant investment from the Enterprise M3 LEP allowing start-ups and businesses working on mobile applications to develop systems capable of operating beyond 4G.

The University of Surrey is providing a world lead on developing the cutting-edge technology at the site.

Clive Sanders, the leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, expressed his excitement at the development.

He said: "This is an amazing opportunity for the borough, especially for start-ups and smaller firms, to be at the forefront of this world-leading technology.

"There is a real drive to establish this area as a leader in 5G.

"The world focus is on the University of Surrey, and the innovative development of this cutting-edge technology.

"By working closely with the university and Enterprise M3, we are harnessing benefits for our business community."

The download of a full HD movie takes under 10 seconds using a 5G connection, with small businesses not usually being given access to facilities of the kind now available in Basingstoke.

But university business incubator SETsquared, which is based at the Basing View hub, will now provide access to the emulator to digital entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-up businesses in the area.

Simon Bond, innovation director at SETsquared, said: "The new 5G emulator has brought a wealth of opportunities for digital start-ups.

"Having access to a world-leading facility such as this right on their doorstep will allow businesses to grow, develop new products and explore the next generation of mobile."

• An artist's impression of how St John's Square will look after the work is completed

Work starts to revamp centre

REGENERATION plans for Festival Place have begun with the modernisation of St John's Square.

The three-phase update of the shopping centre is due to be completed by next October, and will include a redesign of the grand entrance.

Work on St John's Square has already been commissioned by owners AEW, with work now under way to remove kiosks to create a clear line of sight across the square from The Malls to Festival Place.

A branch of Metro Bank is due to open as part of architects Leonard Design's plans for St John's Square, complete with double-height shop facades and an enhanced public realm.

Director at Leonard Design, John Morgan, said: "Working with AEW, we saw the huge potential in St John's Square, and we really wanted to create the feel of an open-air town square."

He added: "This type of regeneration is logistically tricky, as the majority of the work is being carried out at night to avoid disruption to tenants during trading hours, but phase one is on course to be completed before the end of the year."

Victim voices gratitude for messages

• From front page

town to help Steve, with his cousin Peter Keens raising more than £1,000 on December 1 by doing a skydive from 14,000ft.

And after also receiving several gifts at his bedside from friends, family, and other well-wishers, Steve took to Facebook to express his appreciation.

He wrote: "Massive thanks to all of you for sending me loads of prayers and good wishes, hopefully see you all soon.

"Means absolutely loads to me, thanks guys and girls.

"I'm absolutely gutted [to have lost my lower right leg], but I'm positive. It will be a quicker recovery for myself."

Following the news of Steve's amputation, around 100 people, including total strangers, took to social media to once again show their support.

A typical message from Sarah Howard said: "You are a truly amazing person, I would be so honoured to be able to meet you."

Dave Langston wrote: "I'm so, so sorry to hear about your leg, mate, but you're such a fighter, and I'm sure you're gonna come back even stronger."

Jim Barrett added: "Totally in awe of your bravery, strength of character, and positive attitude – keep going, Steve, you are an inspiration."

To send a video or audio message to Steve, email videomessagesforsteve@gmail.com.

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Carols night to aid charity

By Christian Wilson

BASINGSTOKE will get in the Christmas spirit next week to raise vital funds for two local charities.

A festive carol service is due to be held at the home of the town's football club in Western Way.

Basingstoke Town FC has provided support for Ark Cancer Centre Charity throughout the year by renaming its ground the Ark Cancer Charity Stadium for the 2016/17 season.

And the club will once again be giving its backing to the organisation by holding its Christmas service next Monday evening in the charity's name, while also supporting fellow Basingstoke-based group St Michael's Hospice.

Club chaplain Reverend Ken Batt will lead the service at the football club's social club from 7pm, which will feature readings and carols. It is free for all to attend, although there will also be a collection in support of the two charities.

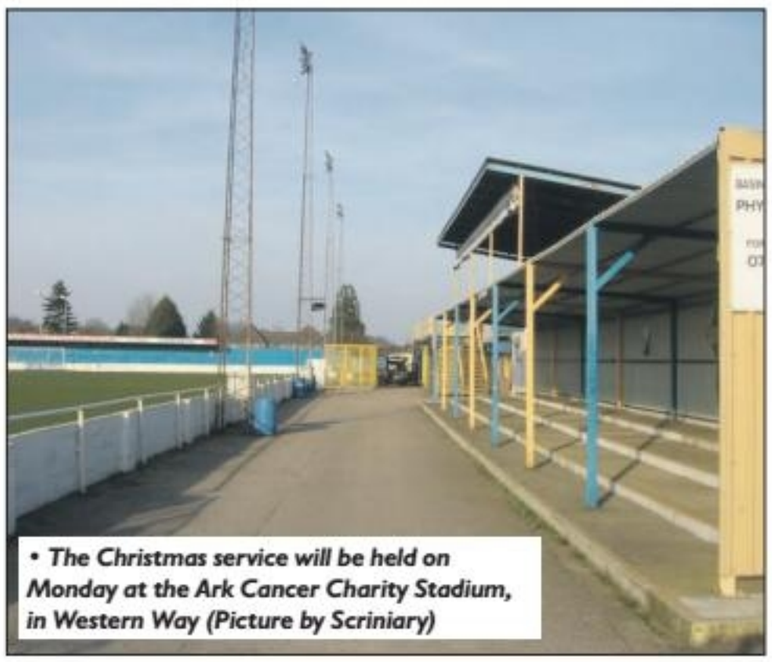
The Rev Batt said: "This will be a very special evening and all are welcome – adults and children. We hope the social club will be full, and we look forward to celebrating Christmas and supporting two very good local causes."

The cancer centre charity is looking to raise £5 million to build Basingstoke's first cancer treatment centre, while St Michael's Hospice provides specialist palliative care for North Hampshire.

Mark Jones, director of fundraising at Ark, said: "The Christmas carol service is a wonderful idea, and the charity is grateful to Rev Batt and everyone at the club who is helping to put on this special event.

"It is some years since the club held an event like this.

"It will be a memorable evening, and it is another great show of support by the officials and supporters of our community-minded football club that they will be raising money for the two charities."



• *The Christmas service will be held on Monday at the Ark Cancer Charity Stadium, in Western Way (Picture by Scriniary)*

• *Mary Edwards (left) with Maria Miller MP*

MP drops in on town's hospital to wish retiring chief executive well

TOWN MP Maria Miller stopped by Basingstoke hospital on Monday to meet with its chief executive for the final time.

Mary Edwards is leaving her role at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) after 14 years before the end of the year.

The trust's board have been searching for a replacement since the announcement in September, with a new chief executive expected in the new year.

Mrs Miller, who wished Mrs Edwards well on her retirement, said: "I thanked Mary for her outstanding contribution to the healthcare needs of Basingstoke residents over many years.

"I look forward to working closely with the new chief executive when they are appointed.

"A particular focus will be getting the go-ahead from the NHS for the new critical treatment hospital, which would offer new ways to deliver the high quality healthcare, which Basingstoke enjoys."

Have your say online

News Bites

Mower taken

PRESTON CANDOVER: A laptop and a lawnmower were stolen in a burglary at a home in Preston Candover on Monday, between 6am and 9.15pm.

Police are asking anyone who saw the lawnmower being put into a van in Basingstoke Road to call them on 101, quoting crime reference number 44160468563.

Gift-wrap days

BASINGSTOKE: The Winchester Road Hobbycraft store is offering a Christmas elves gift-wrapping service this weekend in return for a donation to charity.

Donations will go to support Sutton Scotney-based children's hospice Naomi House, which provides care and support for youngsters with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses.

Figure stolen

TADLEY: An Imperial Guard Warhammer figure and a can of petrol were stolen in a burglary in Tadley last week.

The incident took place between 1am and 11am on Friday, with the offender breaking into a shed outside a property in Hunsmoor Road.

Call police on 101, quoting reference number 44160463554, if you can help.

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MP's support

BASINGSTOKE: Maria Miller has pledged her support for a campaign to help stop sudden cardiac death in the young.

Leading heart charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) is calling on MPs to sign up to the scheme to put screening in the spotlight.

The Basingstoke MP said: "I am pledging to support a national strategy for the prevention of young sudden cardiac death, to help save the lives of the 12 apparently fit and healthy young people who die every week in the UK of undiagnosed cardiac conditions."

Saddles stolen

TADLEY: Two saddles, a bridle and horse food were stolen from a barn in Tadley last week.

Police say thieves broke into the tack room of the property in Church Brook between 5pm on Monday and 9am on Tuesday.

Anyone with any information should call Basingstoke CID on 101, quoting crime reference number 44160458876.

Custom-built homes backed

By Christian Wilson

BOROUGH councillors took only seven minutes last week to approve a project to build 122 houses in Rooksdown.

Each of the homes at The Spinney, next to the former Park Prewett Hospital, will be custom-built by their owners in a first for the UK.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) selected the site in Aldermaston Road, as a national pilot for a large-scale custom build.

• Cllr David Potter

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's development control committee gave its backing for the move on Wednesday night by granting the project outline planning permission.

A total of 44 plots have been allocated for affordable housing in the development, despite Rooksdown councillor Simon Bound previously telling the Observer that this 36 per cent figure should be increased to 40 per cent.

The site had gone before the committee twice before in 2011 and 2014, with a viability report increasing the affordable housing provision from the original figure of 25 per cent.

But while this figure remained the same for the third application, council officer Lisa Souden said an extra four per cent could be "clawed back" in the future.

She said: "The district valuer's view is that the scheme can only support 36 per cent, but there is a safeguard that, should the viability improve in the future, the additional four per cent top-up is there."

The project will allow those that buy plots of land on the site to choose from 30 different design options of how they want their home to look, ranging from the interior layout to extra rooms and extensions.

After being assured by developers ZeroC that those signing up to shared ownership housing would have the same number of design options, Popley East councillor David Potter recommended approval.

He said: "The public will probably be bemused as to why there isn't the amount of debate they're expecting, but we've visited this previously.

"I would have liked to see a higher amount of affordable housing, and I'm always cynical about the viability assessments.

"But we are where we are on this one."

ZeroC managing director, Kim Slowe, said: "We really look forward to working with such a progressive council, like Basingstoke, to lead the way on custom-build delivery in the UK."

• Ryanair presents the cheque to Mark Smith (pictured centre in blue)

Airline jets in with boost for hospices

A SUTTON Scotney children's charity has been handed a much-needed cash boost by Ryanair.

The airline raised €10,000 throughout this year for children's hospices Naomi House and Jacksplace by selling scratch cards to those on board their flights.

Ryanair has now committed to continuing their support next year for the charity, which provides care and support for about 300 children with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses.

Naomi House chief executive Mark Smith said: "Our charity is caring for more families than ever before, and the children and young people that are coming to us have increasingly complex medical needs.

"It is thanks to the generosity of firms like Ryanair that we are able to meet this increasing demand and provide a first-class service for families on good days, difficult days and last days."

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News Bites

Mobility award

BASINGSTOKE: A shop lending manual and electric wheelchairs to Basingstoke residents with limited mobility has won a national award.

Basingstoke Shopmobility, in Church Street, beat 196 other entries to win the Tom Hillier Award for outstanding performance, at the British Healthcare Awards on December 1.

Manager Liz Chandler said: "We are delighted and would like to thank all those who voted for us."

Roadshow tips

BASINGSTOKE: A South West Trains emergency services roadshow will take place at Basingstoke station next year.

Representatives from St John Ambulance and British Transport Police will be on hand from 3pm to 7pm on Friday, January 6, to offer first-aid tips and crime prevention advice.

Rot warning

BASINGSTOKE: National trade body the Property Care Association is urging households in Basingstoke to be vigilant about wet and dry rot.

It thrives in damp and humid conditions and this year's short winter, wet spring and warm summer provided the perfect conditions for it to take hold, says the association.

MP's call for review over planned pension change

By Christian Wilson

THE on-going dispute over a proposed change to the pension scheme for workers at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) was discussed in Parliament last Wednesday.

Hundreds of employees from the nuclear deterrent manufacturer had held a second 24-hour strike at the company's Aldermaston and Burghfield sites a day earlier.

And trade union Unite also staged a successful lobby of MPs 50 miles away in Westminster the same day, while protestors demonstrated outside the Houses of Parliament.

• MP Kit Malthouse

Workers are angry over what they deem to be "broken promises" made by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the early 1990s to protect AWE pensions once the workforce had been transferred to the private sector.

Employers are proposing to slash the amount they currently contribute to pensions from 26 per cent to as little as seven per cent, as part of a new defined contribution alternative that will allow workers to put in more themselves.

And with AWE representing one of Basingstoke and Deane's biggest employers, North West Hampshire MP, Kit Malthouse, called on the Government to review the situation during Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday afternoon.

He said: "This country's nuclear deterrent is our ultimate defence and it must be maintained at all costs.

"Yet hundreds of my constituents who work at AWE are currently on strike over a dispute over pensions.

"These are people who, more often than not, have devoted their entire working lives to tending our nuclear defence, and to whom promises were made during privatisation."

• AWE workers protested outside Parliament, following a lobby of MPs

Leader of the House of Commons, David Lidington, responded by saying: "My understanding is the proposed changes over the AWE pensions scheme are a matter for the company, as the employer.

"But I can assure that the Defence Secretary has been in close contact with AWE through the process, and has met the trade unions, and is now carefully considering recent developments to see what else might be done."

Tuesday's demonstration represented the second 24-hour strike at AWE's base in the space of a month, with 600 workers taking part in action on November 14.

This followed a ballot by Unite at the start of the month that saw 92 per cent of members vote in favour of strike action.

And the trade union group warned that further demonstrations in the new year were "very much on the cards", unless AWE agreed to reverse its "pension scheme betrayal".

Regional officer Bob Middleton said: "Unite is sending out a clear message to employers across the land: 'Don't mess with workers' pensions' – otherwise you will have a fight on your hands.

"Pensions have been built up by employees over many years for their retirement; unscrupulous bosses can't be allowed to dip their fingers into people's pension pots.

"Now is the time for the management to acknowledge these broken promises made to MPs by a minister of the crown, and negotiate in a constructive fashion to resolve this dispute."

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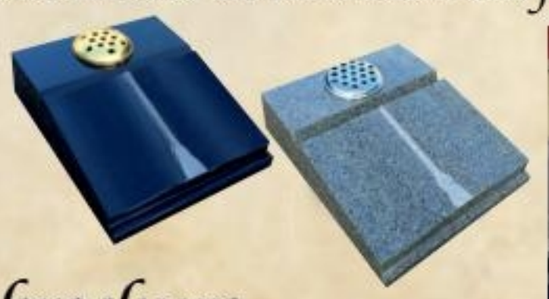

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News Bites

Plan launched

HAMPSHIRE: Police and crime commissioner (PCC) Michael Lane launched his policing and crime strategy for Hampshire on Wednesday.

Mr Lane's plan for the next four years prioritised championing community needs, strengthening partnerships, enabling efficient policing and reducing offending.

The PCC said: "I recognise that further reductions in crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, will not be easy. But I relish these challenges and the opportunity to serve as your police and crime commissioner."

Go to hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/plan for more details.

Lottery results

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE: St Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its latest lottery draw from Friday, December 9.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 71375 of Basingstoke, while ticket 80379 of Basingstoke claims second prize of £100. Third prize of £50 goes to Basingstoke ticket 16698, and Tadley ticket 27343 gets fourth prize of £20.

Prizes of £5 go to 19157, 80517, 73909, 68018, 51640, 69799, 33568, 86663, 14873, 75767, 81058, 27493, 14249, 58956, 19546, and 10811.

Cancer charity given big boost by IT firm

By Christian Wilson

ALMOST £30,000 raised throughout the year by a Chineham IT company has been presented to a Basingstoke charity.

Staff at Centerprise International, in Lime Tree Way, have been involved in a number of different fundraising events over the last 12 months.

Group finance director Sharon Allen got the fundraising ball rolling last December by having her head shaved to raise £6,000, while 12 members of the team also climbed Mount Snowden in Wales in July.

After choosing to support Ark Cancer Centre Charity with their exploits throughout 2016, Centerprise have now reached the finish line with a grand total of £29,481.85.

Ark is trying to raise £5million to help build a new cancer treatment centre, near Junction 7 of the M3.

Centerprise chairman Rafi Razzak pledged to continue his support for the cancer centre charity.

He said: "The Centerprise International family has enjoyed supporting Ark Cancer Centre Charity, and we are delighted that our fundraising has had such a positive impact on the campaign to help fund the much-needed local cancer treatment centre.

"Centerprise International has a proud track record of helping local good causes, and all of us are pleased and proud to have supported the charity, which has a key role to play in creating a landmark centre that will be a beacon for Basingstoke and the National Health Service."

The company also acted as the headline sponsors of the charity's flagship fundraising event of the year in June, 'Music in the Garden', which saw a total of £70,000 raised.

And with Basingstoke Town FC, which is also chaired by Mr Razzak, choosing to rename their ground, the Ark Cancer Charity Stadium, for this season, Ark trustee Merv Rees expressed his gratitude.

He said: "The Centerprise International team have made a big difference to the charity's £5m appeal.

"And their backing, as well as the individual support from Rafi, who kindly sponsored the launch dinner for the charity in 2012 and continues to be a great supporter, is very much appreciated."

• *Rafi Razzak presents the cheque to Ark's director of fundraising, Mark Jones*

• *Basingstoke Town Under-19s show off their new kit*

Footballers given kit by restaurant

BASINGSTOKE Town FC's Under-19s have been given the boost of a free new kit, thanks to a donation from fast-food chain McDonald's.

The restaurant presented the club with the strip, costing about £500, as part of its nationwide FA Kit Scheme after being chosen by local McDonald's franchisee, Tony Bennett.

Basingstoke Town academy manager Jason Bristow said: "This really is a huge saving for us, and means we can spend the money on other areas of the club that need it.

"The kids absolutely love wearing their new strip."

McDonald's operations manager, Wesley Roshier, said: "The kit that we have supplied them with is fantastic, and the kit scheme is something we're incredibly proud to be able to roll out to clubs all over the country."

Time capsule retrieved at school

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller has opened a time capsule buried at a Basingstoke school 25 years ago.

The 'Time Box' was dug up from outside Hatch Warren Junior School, in Gershwin Road, with a number of photos, letters, two VHS tapes, and a floppy disk found inside.

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Mr.P

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Anvil strikes it lucky as grants handed out

• The Anvil, and (inset) Cllr Andrew Gibson

By Christian Wilson

ALMOST £140,000 has been awarded by the county council in grants to cultural and community groups across Basingstoke and Deane.

Hampshire has handed out the grants to four separate venues in the borough, as part of its culture and recreation investment fund, and community investment fund.

The Anvil Trust, Proteus Theatre Company, Whitchurch Silk Mill and Buckskin and Worting Community Association were among the 22 groups countywide to receive funding.

The biggest recipient locally was Basingstoke-based Anvil, which also manages The Haymarket and The Forge. It was handed £73,550 of additional funding to go on top of the £983,304 previously secured by the borough council.

Proteus has been awarded £40,335 to help it run different arts programmes in the town, including five youth theatres, and activities and workshops for adults and children with disabilities.

And Whitchurch's living industrial museum, which at over 200 years old is the oldest working silk mill in Britain, has been presented with a culture and recreation investment fund grant of £19,265.

Buckskin and Worting Community Association's request for £25,000 to develop healthy lifestyle and wellbeing programmes was refused, but it was instead granted a £6,290 community investment fund grant.

And a request for £4,300 for volunteering project Kala the Arts was also turned down, as executive member for culture, recreation, and countryside, Andrew Gibson, made his ruling last Tuesday.

"These grants make a big difference to Hampshire's much valued cultural, recreational and community groups," said Cllr Gibson.

"Many people of all ages and walks of life enjoy the activities and events on offer at these local theatres, museums and art venues."

The cultural and recreation investment fund contributes once a year towards service and running costs, while the community investment fund prioritises groups serving communities with high levels of deprivation.

Cllr Gibson added: "These grants also support community groups who play such a vital role in local life, often in deprived areas.

"This complements our work supporting the wider economic, cultural and social wellbeing for Hampshire residents and all the benefits that brings."

Police welcome coming of new stalking orders

HAMPSHIRE'S police force has welcomed the introduction of new stalking protection orders nationwide.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced last Wednesday that the extra protection for victims of stalking would be introduced at "the earliest possible stage".

The new orders will provide similar protection to victims to that currently given to those suffering domestic abuse, with police being handed powers to intervene early in cases.

A £15million fund will help implement the change, which will also allow police to apply for an order to impose restrictions on offending, with breaches carrying a jail sentence of up to five years.

Hampshire has the only multi-agency stalking clinic in the country, in that it sees Hampshire Constabulary work with probation, mental-health practitioners, the Crown Prosecution Service, and a dedicated stalking advocate.

Detective Chief Inspector Tim Rowlandson said: "With these new orders, we will be able to intervene even earlier, as the orders also allow for requirements to be placed on offenders, such as attending rehabilitation programs or seeking treatment for mental-health issues.

"We are excited about the announcement of a £15m fund for initiatives tackling this type of crime. This gives us a vital opportunity to reduce the risk of offences continuing."

Hampshire force gains 'good' watchdog rating

INSPECTORS have ruled that Hampshire Constabulary is "good" at legitimately keeping people safe.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) revealed last Thursday that 306 police officers nationwide had been reported for using their position to sexually exploit people in the two years before the end of March.

The data, which revealed that 20 PCSOs and eight police staff had also been involved in the 436 reported allegations, showed all but one constabulary had received at least one claim.

It appears from the findings that Hampshire was among those that received reports, although inspector Zoe Billingham praised the force for "taking seriously" abuse of power for sexual gain.

She said: "It has improved staff awareness of this issue.

"The force also appreciates that transparency in these area is vitally important in maintaining the public trust, and makes public the outcomes of misconduct proceedings."

In handing Hampshire Constabulary the "good" rating for the second year in a row, HMIC also found that the force "is good at identifying risks posed by misconduct and corruption".

Ms Billingham added: "I would like to see more attention given to the standards expected of its work when supporting vulnerable people, specifically victims of domestic abuse."

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Quick Clues Across

1 Large boiler (8)
4 Appear (4)
8 Snare (6)
10 Draw off (6)
11 Fools (5)
12 Arrangement (5)
14 Successfully dealing with (6)
17 Relating to harmony (9)
18 Make known (9)
22 Lump of gold (6)
23 Upright (5)
24 Approaches (5)
26 Avoided (6)
27 Fodder (6)
28 Break abruptly (4)
29 Discouraged (8)

Quick Clues Down

1 Masticate (4)
2 Speaks (6)
3 Crown (6)
5 Racial (6)
6 Directing (8)
7 Buffalo (5)
9 Professed (9)
10 Those who support a proposal (9)
13 Expiring (5)
15 Section (5)
16 Sharpness (8)
18 Tropical lizard (6)
19 Principle (5)
20 Bear-like (6)
21 Pastry (6)
25 Repair (4)

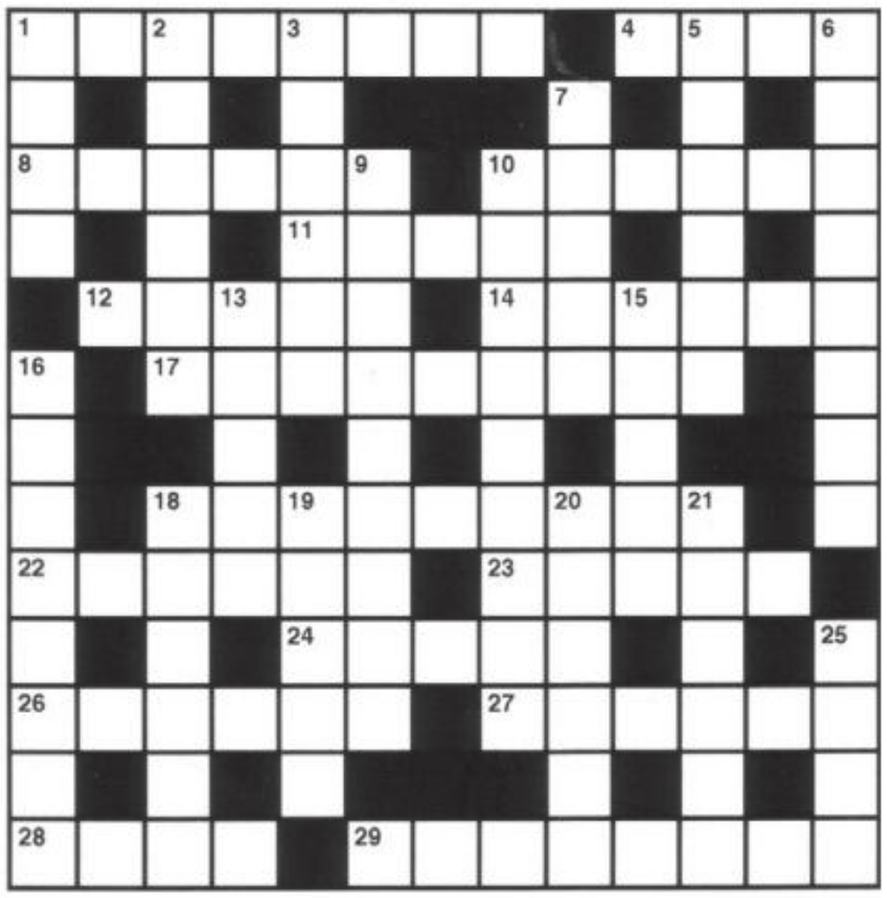
Cryptic Clues

Across

1 Tap the end of the drink (8)
4 The fellow feels sore (4)
8 A poet takes nothing on the ship (6)
10 Pay to get rid of the tattered edge? (6)
11 Fight against the return of the invalid (5)
12 Have no right to assert it is valuable property (5)
14 See that it is not frozen (6)
17 Charged with looking after about ten that are corroded? (9)
18 Said in return to be about a meter across the cirdes (9)
22 The peasant is not hot - that is, at the end (6)
23 In a few games of tennis there is always something put in (5)
24 Show scorn when the visionary has a new beginning (5)
26 The consequence of being sure about the officer (6)
27 Being secretive about one's age in a wise way (6)
28 We hear there is a canvas at the auction (4)
29 The last month brought comfort to the dead man (8)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Fruit for a sour person (4)
2 Select a hundred stockings? There's nothing in it (6)
3 Express impatience about sin up the tower (6)
5 Get something distasteful from a march or ride (6)
6 The spy meant somehow to get his rewards (8)
7 Although he has everything he's still a slave (5)
9 Find some merit in the hollow damage (9)
10 Denies you have to take a seat inside because of the crowded conditions (9)
13 Sail round the north in a leisurely manner? (5)
15 Weeping at the divisions (5)
16 Sees a difference and rescinds the amendment (8)
18 A lord's on his back! (6)
19 A small piece of land in the church (5)
20 The end of more anger about to cause fury (6)
21 Breaks the bond, though always in the ship (6)



Scribble space

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
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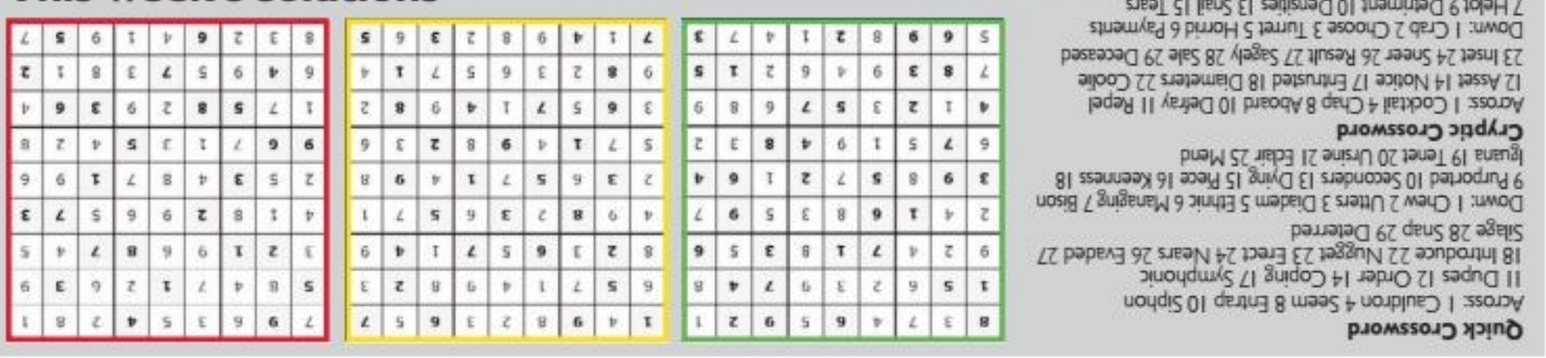
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

This week's solutions



Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Cauldron 4 Seem 8 Entrap 10 Siphon 11 Dupes 12 Order 14 Coping 17 Symphonic 18 Introduce 22 Nugget 23 Erect 24 Nears 26 Evaded 27 Silage 28 Snap 29 Deterred

Down: 1 Chew 2 Utters 3 Diadem 5 Ethnic 6 Managing 7 Bison 9 Purported 10 Seconders 13 Dying 15 Piece 16 Keenness 18 Iguana 19 Tenet 20 Ursine 21 Eclair 25 Mend

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Cocktail 4 Chap 8 Aboard 10 Defray 11 Repel 12 Asset 14 Notice 17 Entrusted 18 Diameters 22 Cockle 23 Inset 24 Sneer 26 Result 27 Sagely 28 Sale 29 Deceased

Down: 1 Crab 2 Choose 3 Turret 5 Horrid 6 Payments 7 Helot 9 Detriment 10 Densities 13 Snail 15 Tears 16 Discerns 18 Dorsal 19 Aisle 20 Enrage 21 Severs 25 Dyed

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http://www.42ndstreetmusical.co.uk

Closing date: Friday, January 27, 2017

Win tickets

We have teamed up with 42nd Street to offer our readers the chance to win 1 of 3 pairs of tickets to see the show.

To enter answer the following question:

Q: Which theatre will 42nd Street be on at?
The Theatre Royal Drury Lane, The Catherine or The London?

Terms and Conditions:

Prize tickets are pairs of top price tickets and are valid for all Monday to Thursday performances between 20 March – 13 April, excluding 4 April.

Tickets are strictly subject to availability.

Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available.

Travel is not included.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk or www.newburyobserver.co.uk

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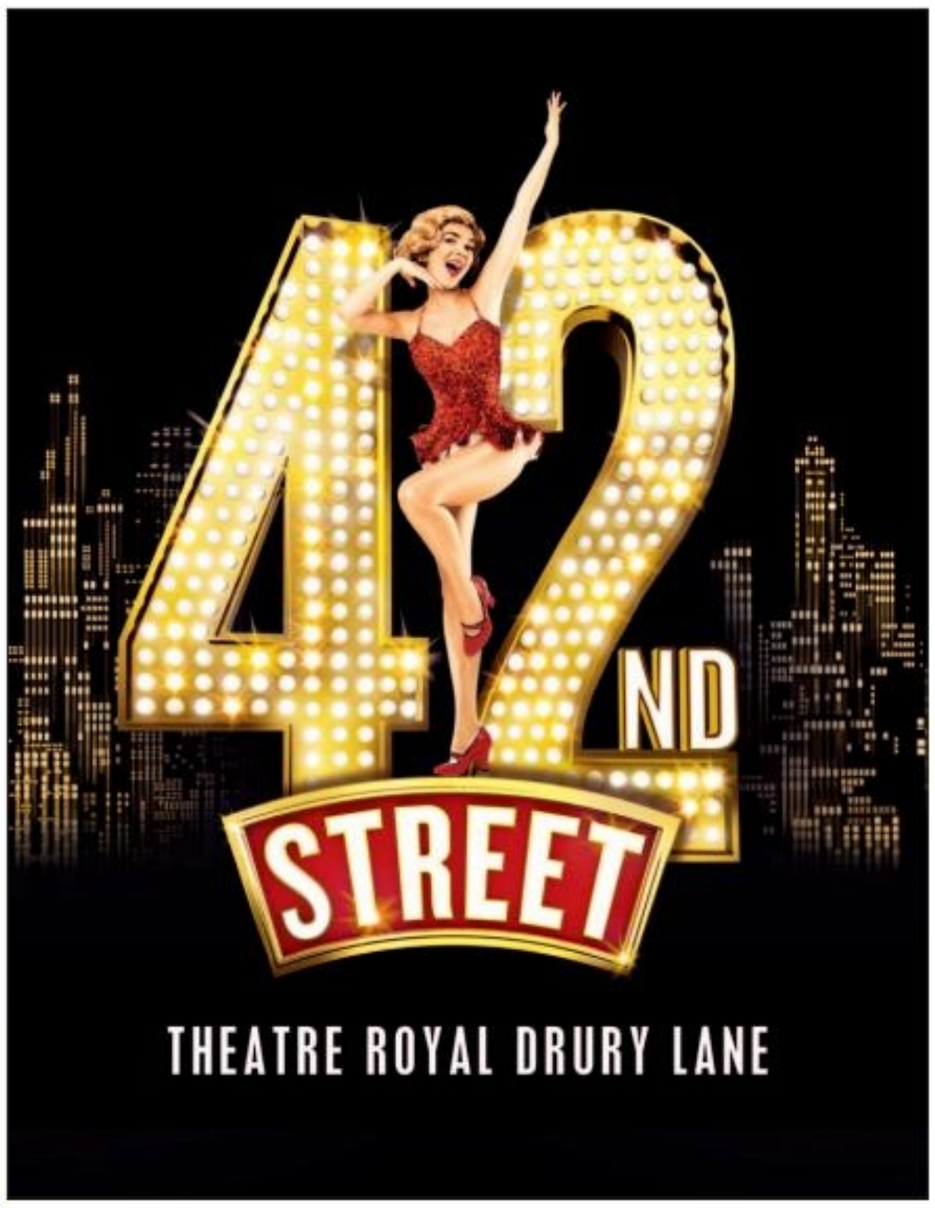

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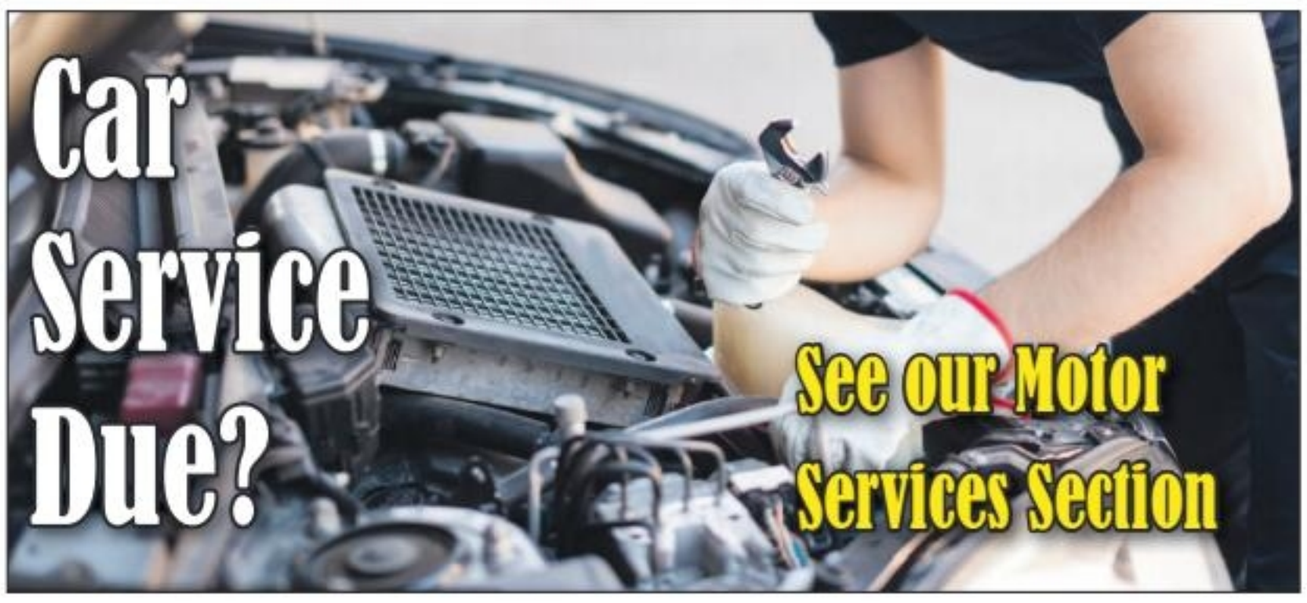

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Local mortgage advisers Michael Usher Mortgage Services based in Winchester Street, Basingstoke have some good news for the over 55s in Basingstoke and surrounding villages. They are now expanding their very successful offering of a mortgage product for homeowners that are:

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- Customers that have no mortgage on their homes and wish to raise some monies for home improvements, grandchildren's education or even pay for a cruise!

Michael Usher, founder and owner of the firm comments "We have been advising on these products for over 15 years and have made a lot of people very happy with our advice". He goes on to say, "for some people this wide range of products can help homeowners live in their property until they pass on or downsize, this obviously gives total peace of mind for anyone that is feeling the pressure".
The types of lenders that are offering these products are Aviva, Legal & General, LV and Just Retirement to name a few. They are all keen to lend to homeowners who have vast amounts of equity in their homes, who are aged 55 plus and wish to borrow money against their bricks & mortar.

Michael Usher Mortgage Services have the experience to look after your personal needs. They have been successfully arranging mortgages since 1987 and opened their second office in Basingstoke in May 2015. The team is based in the town at the end of the one way system which is one of the best locations in Basingstoke and is headed by founder and owner Michael Usher along with his nephew Sean Usher and Joe Capon, who both have been with the firm for over 4 years. Michael goes on to say, "I am personally committed to giving our clients a 5 Star service from start to finish, I want all prospective customers whether they are First Time Buyers or experienced borrowers to receive 100% customer satisfaction from a local business and not a call centre". **If you would like to discuss your mortgage needs with one of our team then please call 01256 637000. We are sure we can help you.**

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Tuck into festive Feast

CHRISTMAS is the perfect time for a feast so get ready to tuck into folk duo Belshazzer's Feast as they gig at the Gill Nethercott Centre in Whitchurch on Sunday as part of their '2016 Stocking Christmas Tour'.

See inside for more.

• *(Photo by Ely Lucas)*

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Saturday December 17th

BBC1

Michael McIntyre's Big Show, 8.55pm

10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live (S) **11.30 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Sports Personality 2016: The Contenders** (S)(R) **2.15 Bargain Hunt** (S) **3.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.00 Final Score** (S) **5.30 BBC News** (S) **5.40 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **5.50 Pointless Celebrities** (S) **6.40 Strictly Come Dancing** (S)

7

8

8.55 Michael McIntyre's Big Show Jack Whitehall, Sting and Ricky Gervais – in the guise of David Brent – take to the stage. (S)

9

9.55 BBC News; Weather (S)

10

10.15 The National Lottery Live Olly Murs pushes the buttons to reveal the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers. (S)
10.25 Match of the Day; (S) National Lottery Update (S)

11

11.45 The NFL Show Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL. (S)

AFTER 12

12.15 FILM Old School (2003) (15) Comedy, starring Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (S) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.50** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Operation Snow Tiger, 6.55pm

6.50 FILM Holiday Affair (1949) (U) (S) **8.15 FILM The Bishop's Wife (1947) (U)** (S) **10.00 This Farming Life** (S)(R) **12.00 Wild Japan** (S)(R) **3.00 FILM The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2012) (U)** Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. (S) **4.35 FILM Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger! (2012) (U)** Comedy sequel. (S) **6.25 Dad's Army** (S)(R) **6.55 Operation Snow Tiger** (S)(R)

7.55 Walt Disney – Part Two Documentary exploring the life, career and legacy of Walt Disney. (S)

8.55 FILM A Christmas Carol (2009) (PG) Motion-capture animated fantasy, starring Jim Carrey and Gary Oldman. (S)

10.25 QI XL Extended episode, with guests Miles Jupp, Deirdre O'Kane and Phill Jupitus. (S)

11.10 Porridge Christmas special from 1975. The inmates plan a Christmas escape. (S)(R)
11.50 The Making of Young Men (S)

12.20 Balletboyz – Young Men (S)(R) **1.20 FILM Chances Are (1989) (PG)** Romantic comedy, with Cybill Shepherd and Robert Downey Jr. (S) **3.05** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, 4.15pm

9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 FILM Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) (PG)** (S) **11.20 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather (S) **12.35 This Time Next Year** (S)(R) **1.35 FILM Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U)** (S) **3.20 Thunderbirds Are Go** (S) **3.45** ITV Regional News; Weather (S) **4.00** ITV News (S) **4.15 FILM The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) (PG)** (S)

7.30 FILM The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) (12) Fantasy adventure, with Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen. (S)

10.40 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.55 FILM Private Benjamin (1980) (15) Comedy, with Goldie Hawn and Armand Assante. (S)

12.55 Jackpot247 3.00 ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

Channel 4 Racing, 1.30pm

6.10 Three Peaks Yacht Race (S) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.00 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.00 The Morning Line** (S) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.50 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **11.45 FILM The Dog Who Saved the Holidays (2012) (PG)** (S) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing** (S) **4.05 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **5.05 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** (S)(R) **5.40 FILM Arthur Christmas (2011) (U)** (S)

7.30 Channel 4 News (S)

8.00 Tree of the Year with Ardal O'Hanlon The actor visits some of the UK's most remarkable trees. (S)

9.00 It Was Alright in the 1970s Matt Lucas narrates this look at the programmes that flirted with danger during the decade, including Blue Peter. (S)

10.00 FILM Escape Plan (2013) (15) A security expert is incarcerated after being duped and tries to break out with the help of a fellow convict. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone. (S)

12.15 FILM The Guest (2014) (15) Thriller, starring Dan Stevens. (S) **2.00** Bear's Wild Weekend with Jonathan Ross (S)(R) **2.50** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.45** Hollyoaks (S)(R)

Channel 5

Football on 5: The Championship, 9pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 The Gadget Show (S)(R) **11.15 FILM A Cinderella Christmas (2016) (PG)** (S) **1.05 FILM Christmas Cookies (2016)** (S) **2.50 FILM Love Always, Santa (2016) (PG)** (S) **4.35 FILM Christmas Under Wraps (2014) (PG)** Premiere. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. (S) **6.25 FILM Space Cowboys (2000) (PG)** Adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (S)

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush Goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two. (S)
10.30 The Funny Thing About Christmas (S)

11.30 Greatest Ever Christmas Songs A celebratory compilation of some of the biggest festive songs over the last 50 years. (S)

1.25 SuperCasino 3.10 All New Traffic Cops (S)(R) **4.00** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Hot Desk: Ella Henderson **6.10** Emmerdale **8.40** Coronation Street **11.35** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **12.35** You've Been Framed! at Christmas **1.35** Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **2.35** FILM: Peter Pan (2003) (PG) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** FILM: Peter Pan (2003) (PG) **4.45** FILM: Snow Dogs (2002) (PG) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** FILM: Snow Dogs (2002) (PG) Concluded. **7.00** You've Been Framed! at Christmas **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** FILM: A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (2011) (18) Premiere. Comedy, starring John Cho and Kal Penn. **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** FILM: A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (2011) (18) Concluded. **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** Mom **12.40** American Dad! **1.10** FILM: Bring It On (2000) (12) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** FILM: Bring It On (2000) (12) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Movies Now **6.10** FILM: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) (U) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** FILM: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) (U) **7.50** FILM: Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) (PG) **9.55** A Touch of Frost **1.50** Foyle's War **3.50** Midsomer Murders **5.55** Midsomer Murders: Ghosts of Christmas Past **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** The Booze Cruise III **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.15** Wycliffe **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Queen Elizabeth I: A Timewatch Guide **8.00** Last Journey of the Magna Carta King **9.00** Modus **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **11.00** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **12.00** Agnetha: Abba and After **1.00** Kings of 70s Romance **2.00** Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Olive, the Other Reindeer **6.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Baby Daddy **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Made in Chelsea **10.00** Celebrity Couples Come Dine with Me **11.05** Melissa & Joey **1.00** Black-ish **2.00** FILM: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) (PG) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **11.20** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** The Inbetweeners **3.25** New Girl **5.00** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Kirstie's Handmade Christmas **9.25** Food Unwrapped **9.50** Food Unwrapped at Christmas **10.50** Jamie's Cracking Christmas **11.55** Come Dine with Me **2.35** Four in a Bed **5.15** Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special **8.00** The Year Britain Froze **9.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **10.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special **11.05** The Great British Sex Survey **12.40** Very British Problems **1.45** 8 Out of 10 Cats **3.20** Kirstie's Handmade Christmas **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Black Nativity (2013) (PG) **1.00** Step Up (2006) (PG) **3.05** Carry On Regardless (1961) (U) Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James. **4.55** Chalet Girl (2011) (12) Comedy, starring Felicity Jones. **6.50** Men in Black 3 (2012) (PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) (15) Comedy, starring Kristen Wiig. **11.25** Devil's Due (2014) (15) Horror, starring Allison Miller. **1.10** Terminator Salvation (2009) (12) **3.30** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Jay Leno's Garage **8.00** Celebrity Storage Hunters **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **12.00** Top Gear **2.00** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **3.00** Taskmaster **5.00** Celebrity Storage Hunters **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Would I Lie to You? – The Unseen Bits **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **11.00** FILM: Coming to America (1988) (15) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **1.15** Room 101 **2.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **3.25** The Indestructibles **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 The Agatha Christie Hour **11.00** Miss Marple **3.00** Agatha Christie: A Life in Pictures **5.00** FILM: 10 Little Indians (1974) (PG) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Oliver Reed. **7.00** FILM: Murder Most Foul (1964) (U) Agatha Christie mystery, with Margaret Rutherford. **9.00** FILM: The Last of the Mohicans (1992) (15) Historical adventure, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Madeleine Stowe. **11.15** Waking the Dead **1.45** The Forsyte Saga **3.10** Garden Hopping **4.20** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Are You Smarter Than a 10 Year Old? **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** Game Changers **8.30** Futurama **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.3** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.30** Futurama **2.00** Modern Fami **4.00** Harry Hill's Tea-Time **4.30** Moana: Special **5.00** Supergirl **6.00** The Flash **7.00** The Simpsons **8.30** Star Wars: Rogue One Special **9.00** FILM: Wedding Crasher (2005) (15) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn. **11.20** A League of Their Own **12.20** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life **1.20** Arrow **2.10** Stan Lee's Lucky Man **3.10** Nothing to Declare **5.10** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Storm City **8.00** The West Wing **1.00** Blue Bloods **8.00** David Attenborough's Conquest of the Skies **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.30** Band of Brothers **12.45** Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight **2.35** Girls **4.15** The West Wing

W SKY: 109

6.00 Me, You and Doctor Who: A Culture Show Special **7.00** Doctor Who **8.20** The Bill **1.25** EastEnders **4.00** Heston's Fantastical Christmas **5.00** Doctor Who **6.20** FILM: First Knight (1995) (PG) Arthurian adventure, starring Richard Gere. **9.00** Jonathan Creek **11.40** FILM: The 6th Day (2000) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **2.10** Code Black **3.00** Home Shopping

CHRISTMAS GOLD SKY: 110

7.10 Cheers **8.00** Lovejoy **11.30** The Two Ronnies: Old Fashioned Mystery **12.35** Creature Comforts **1.05** Only Fools and Horses **2.55** FILM: Carry On Sergeant (1958) (U) Comedy, starring William Hartnell. **4.40** TOTP2 **6.40** The John Bishop Show **8.00** Christmas Night with the Two Ronnies **9.00** FILM: Hancock (2008) (12) Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith. **10.50** Men Behaving Badly **1.30** Harry Enfield and Chums **2.45** I Dream of Jeannie **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football League Gold **7.00** Sporting Triumphs **8.0** Game Changers **8.30** Premier League Review **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL. Birmingham City v Brighton & Hove Albion (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** EFL Goals **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League Highlights **12.00** NFL – Greatest Games **1.00** Live NFL. **4.30** Sporting Triumphs

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Sunday December 18th

DAYTIME

BBC1

10.00 Fern Britton Meets Rebecca Ferguson (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Flog It!** (S)(R) **2.10 Elizabeth at 90 – A Family Tribute** (S)(R) **3.40 Planet Earth II** (S)(R) **4.40 Dunster by Candlelight** (S) **5.15 BBC News** (S) **5.30 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **5.40 Countryfile** (S) **6.40 Sports Personality of the Year 2016** (S)

7

8

9

9.00 The Apprentice Former contenders help the final two launch their businesses in a task to determine the winner. Last in the series. (S)

10

10.00 The Apprentice: You're Hired Rhod Gilbert is joined by the winner. Last in the series. (S)

11

11.00 BBC News (S)
11.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
11.30 Walliams & Friend (S)(R)

AFTER 12

12.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You (S) **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.50** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.20 A to Z of TV Gardening (S)(R) **7.05 Big Dreams Small Spaces** (S)(R) **8.05 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.00 Super Powered Owls: Natural World** (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 A to Z of Christmas Cooking** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 Tom Kerridge Cooks Christmas** (S)(R) **1.30 Equestrian: Olympia 2016** (S) **4.35 Full Steam Ahead** (S)(R) **5.35 FILM The Terminal (2004) (12)** (S)

7.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV Special Comedy sketches. (S)(R)

8.20 Best of British: Victoria Wood The comedian and writer looks back on her career. (S)(R)

9.00 Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas A festive special from 2009 that attempts to cram a night's Christmas viewing into an hour. (S)(R)

10.00 Victoria Wood: At it Again A filmed performance at the Royal Albert Hall, taken from the comedian's 2001 UK tour. (S)

11.30 FILM Last Chance Harvey (2008) (12) Romantic drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson. (S)

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **1.50** Holby City (S)(R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

9.25 FILM All Stars (2013) (U) (S) **11.20 Let's Do Christmas with Gino & Mel** (S)(R) **12.15 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.20 Off Their Rockers** (S)(R) **12.50 FILM The Incredible Hulk (2008) (12)** (S) **2.55 FILM National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) (PG)** (S) **4.45 FILM Santa Claus: The Movie (1985) (U)** (S) **6.40 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.50 ITV News** (S)

7.00 All Star Mr & Mrs Christmas Special Festive edition of the celebrity game show. (S)

8.00 Midsomer Murders Christmas special of the detective drama. A man is murdered during the reopening of a village. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 FILM Hot Fuzz (2007) (15) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. (S)

12.35 Jackpot247 3.00 Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.20 Everybody Loves Raymond (S)(R) **7.10 Frasier** (S)(R) **8.05 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 Lewis vs Nico: F1 2016** (S) **2.05 FILM Inkheart (2008) (PG)** (S) **4.10 The Snowman** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (S)(R) **4.45 Channel 4 News** (S) **5.10 FILM Cars (2006) (PG)** Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Owen Wilson. (S)

7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather Footage of unusual weather conditions recorded in Britain during 2016. (S)

9.00 Humans In the aftermath of the silo tragedy, Hester seeks revenge on Leo. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)

11.05 FILM About a Boy (2002) (12) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Nicholas Hoult. (S)

12.55 FILM Before I Go to Sleep (2014) (15) Thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. (S) **2.25** 60 Days in Jail (S)(R) **3.20** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (S)(R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.10** Supershoppers (S)(R) **5.40** The King of Queens (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Football on 5: The Championship (S)(R) **11.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **11.30 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **12.30 FILM A Perfect Christmas List (2014) (U)** (S) **2.15 FILM Lost Letter Mysteries for Christmas (2014) (PG)** (S) **4.00 FILM The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey (2007) (U)** (S) **5.45 FILM Scrooge (1970) (U)** Musical fantasy, starring Albert Finney. (S)

8.00 Michael Buble at Christmas Festive special, with guest appearances by Celine Dion, Tor Kelly and Sharon Jones. (S)(R)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 FILM Hercules (2014) (12) Premiere. Mythological adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson and Ian McShane. Includes 5 News at 10pm. (S)

10.55 FILM Snitch (2013) (12) Crime thriller, starring Dwayne Johnson and Susan Sarandon. (S)

1.00 SuperCasino 3.10 The Yorkshire Vet: Winter on the Moors (S)(R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Hot Desk: Nick Jonas **6.10** Christmas Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.35** Emmerdale **9.20** Coronation Street **12.20** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **1.20** The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol **1.45** FILM: Santa Paws 2: The Santa Pups (2012) (U) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** FILM: Santa Paws 2: The Santa Pups (2012) (U) **3.40** FILM: Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas (2004) (U) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** FILM: Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas (2004) (U) **5.05** Catchphrase Christmas Special **6.05** The X Factor Winner's Story **7.10** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) (12) Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield. **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) (12) Concluded. **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Bordertown **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 FILM: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) (PG) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** FILM: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) (PG) **7.45** Heartbeat **9.45** An Avonlea Christmas **11.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** FILM: Columbo: The Conspirators (1978) (PG) **3.45** FILM: Casablanca (1942) (U) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** FILM: Casablanca (1942) (U) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Meet the Penguins **9.00** Alexander Armstrong's Land of the Midnight Sun **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10** FILM: Wimbledon (2004) (12) Romantic drama, starring Kirsten Dunst and Paul Bettany. **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** FILM: Wimbledon (2004) (12) **1.05** Lewis **2.55** Wycliffe **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** You're Only Young Twice **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Danielle de Niese: The Birth of an Opera **8.00** The Barber of Seville from Glyndebourne **10.45** Lucy Worsley: Mozart's London Odyssey **11.45** Horizon: Solar Storms - The Threat to Planet Earth **12.45** How to Build a Jumbo Jet Engine **1.45** Inside Porton Down: Britain's Secret Weapons Research Facility **2.45** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **3.45** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Animals Unleashed **7.05** Baby Daddy **8.00** Melissa & Joey **9.00** Young & Hungry **9.30** Hollyoaks **12.00** FILM: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) (U) **2.00** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas **2.25** The Goldbergs **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (2012) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **11.20** Tattoo Fixers **12.25** Gogglebox **1.30** The Inbetweeners **2.35** New Girl **3.45** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Kirstie's Handmade Christmas **10.00** Vet on the Hill **11.00** Car SOS **12.00** Come Dine with Me Christmas Special **1.05** Come Dine with Me **3.40** Four in a Bed **6.20** Come Dine with Me **9.00** Britain's Winter: Storm Heroes **10.00** Britain's Killer Storms **11.45** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.50** Father Ted **2.55** 8 Out of 10 Cats **3.40** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) (PG) **1.00** The Tale of the Princess Kaguya (2013) (U) **3.50** Miracle on 34th Street (1994) (U) Christmas family drama remake, with Richard Attenborough. **6.05** The Karate Kid (2010) (PG) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) (12) Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. **11.10** August: Osage County (2013) (15) Drama, starring Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts. **1.30** Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (2007) (15) **3.50** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 James May's Cars of the People **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Top Gear Botswana Special **10.00** Top Gear USA Special **11.00** Motorway Cops **12.00** Celebrity Storage Hunters **5.00** Top Gear Botswana Special **6.00** Top Gear USA Special **7.00** James May's Cars of the People **8.00** QI XL **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **10.00** Taskmaster **1.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **2.00** Taskmaster **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 The Bill **11.00** Miss Marple **3.00** FILM: 10 Little Indians (1974) (PG) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Oliver Reed. **5.00** FILM: Murder Most Foul (1964) (U) Agatha Christie mystery, with Margaret Rutherford. **7.00** Miss Marple **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.50** The Whale **3.30** Garden Hopping **4.00** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Business **7.30** Futurama **9.00** Supergirl **10.00** The Flash **11.00** WWE: Raw **12.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **1.00** Futurama **2.30** Modern Family **5.30** The Simpsons **6.00** Harry Hill's Tea-Time **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **9.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **10.00** The Force: Essex **11.00** The Force: Manchester **12.00** Ross Kemp on Gangs **1.00** Strike Back: Project Dawn **3.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.00** Nothing to Declare **5.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Storm City **8.00** The West Wing **1.00** Blue Bloods **7.00** David Attenborough's Conquest of the Skies **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.20** The Affair **12.30** The Young Pope **3.00** The Affair **4.10** Without a Trace

W SKY: 109

6.00 Bondi Rescue **6.30** MasterChef Canada **8.30** EastEnders **11.00** Heston's Fantastical Christmas **12.00** Doctor Who **8.00** Nigellissima - An Italian Inspired Christmas **9.00** Dynamo: Top Ten Greatest Moments **10.00** FILM: The 6th Day (2000) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **12.30** The Call Centre **1.30** Secrets and Lies **2.30** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

CHRISTMAS GOLD SKY: 110

7.10 Cheers **8.00** Lovejoy **10.20** The Two Ronnies: Old Fashioned Mystery **11.20** Richard E Grant on Ealing Comedies **12.20** FILM: Barnacle Bill (1941) (U) **2.10** FILM: Up the Chastity Belt (1971) (PG) Medieval comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. **4.00** FILM: Up the Front (1972) (PG) First World War comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. **5.50** FILM: Shakespeare in Love (1998) (15) Period romantic comedy, starring Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow. **8.20** The Two Ronnies: Old Fashioned Mystery **9.25** Creature Comforts **9.55** TOTP2: Christmas 2013 **11.55** Men Behaving Badly **1.15** Harry Hill's TV Burp **1.45** Extras **3.00** I Dream of Jeannie **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Manchester City v Arsenal (kick-off 4.00pm). **7.00** Spanish Football Gold **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Barcelona v Espanyol (kick-off 7.30pm). **9.30** Spanish Football Gold **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.30** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League Highlights **1.00** Live NFL. **4.30** Football's Greatest Teams **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

A feast arrives in Whitchurch

By James Richings

MUSICAL duo Belshazzar's Feast will be returning to Whitchurch on Sunday.

Made up of Paul Sartin and Paul Hutchinson, the two friends come to the village as part of their '2016 Stocking Christmas Tour'.

The twosome are hoping to create the same type of festive atmosphere at The Gill Nethercott Centre as they did 12 months ago with their 'Stocking Fillers Tour' being a huge hit with fans.

And with the duo performing tunes off their six studio albums, Paul Sartin believes this will be a show that no-one will forget in a hurry.

This year's festive tour started on December 1 in Towcester and will conclude in Chelmsford three days before Christmas.

"It's always a pleasure to be coming back," 'Paul S said.

"Whitchurch is my hometown but I've moved away temporarily, so I can't wait to get back!

"And the audience can expect mistletoes and mayhem!

"There shall be seasonal songs, tunes and a fair bit of humour."

Venues in Liverpool, Loughborough and Morecambe are just some the two friends have visited as they plan to get the country in the Christmas mood.

However, the plan to release new material has been a struggle within the last year or so as the twosome are also involved in a number of other projects.

Despite that, the award-nominated musicians hope to give their fans a five star show, as their visit to Nettlebed will be the venue's final event of the year.

They were nominated for 'The Best Duo Award' at the 2010 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, following a fine run of successful reviews for their 2009 album 'Frost Bites'.

"We very much enjoy audience participation and interaction during the evening, be it joining in with choruses, heckling or buying lots of CDs," he told the Observer.

"It goes without saying, although we're saying it, that we'd be nothing without our audience so if they appreciate the evening, all the better."

The gig will start at 8pm and tickets cost £13.

• *Belshazzar's Feast Paul Sartin (left) and Paul Hutchinson (right)*

Christmas classic

THEATRE: Christmas drama will hit The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon as 'Christmas Carol' arrives at the theatre this Saturday, .

The production has the traditional storyline, but the Station Road adaptation will be more comical, as it will contain a number of catchy songs, funny dances and puppetry.

It starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £11.

Chilled out evening

LIVE MUSIC: Get yourself relaxed before Christmas as the Central Studio will be hosting a live piano session tomorrow night, Friday.

Pianist Lisa Maycock will perform a number of recognisable tunes at the free event, which begins at 7pm.

Special performance

THEATRE: A relaxed performance of The Anvil's pantomime will be performed on Wednesday, December 21.

This version of 'Sleeping Beauty' will be aimed at children who are on the autistic spectrum or have other disabilities.

Tickets cost £10 and it will start at 2pm.

Visit anvilarts.org for more information or to book.

Perfect ingredients for great family pantomime

Review

THERE'S plenty to keep you awake in The Anvil's fantastic Christmas pantomime, as Sleeping Beauty sets the alarm for some festive fun!

With all the traditional pantomime elements we've come to know and love, including glittering costumes, amazing sets, catchy songs and a large helping of good old fashioned humour, grown-ups are sure to enjoy this show just as much as the little ones.

The timeless story of Sleeping Beauty is given a fresh modern take, referencing everything from Pokemon Go to hashtags and Tinder and there's enough excitement to keep younger members of the family entertained.

The kingdom is celebrating the birth of Princess Briar Rose, and the kindly Snowflake Fairy (Hollyoaks' Sarah-Jane Buckley) leads the festivities, treating us to a beautiful rendition of Pure Imagination from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

There's only one problem: someone forgot to invite the wicked fairy Carabosse (played with evident relish by Only Fools and Horses' Sue Holderness), and when she crashes the party things take a sinister turn.

Enraged by the snub, Carabosse curses the infant Princess, dooming her to prick her finger on a spinning wheel and fall down dead on her 18th birthday.

The Snowflake Fairy manages to temper the spell however, so that Briar Rose will not die, but fall asleep for 100 years.

Fast forward 18 years and we meet the grown-up Princess (CBeebies' Nina and the Neurons star Katrina Bryan) getting ready to celebrate her birthday again.

Bryan's charming pop princess brings us bang up to date with a lively version of Meghan Trainor's 'Better When I'm Dancing', ably supported by the hilarious hijinx of her best mate and comedy sidekick Silly Billy (comedian Mark James).

The King, played by Phil Cole, isn't left out of the fun either, as he addresses his subjects with a right royal rapping proclamation.

No panto is complete without a Dame of course, and Sleeping Beauty has a consummate professional in Charles Burden, celebrating his 50th year of performing.

This time around he's playing Nanny Glucose, whose winning warmth and charm will enchant the children, while throwing in some playfully risqué jokes for the adults.

When Briar Rose meets the handsome Prince Phillip (Ben Harlow) ahead of her birthday party, all looks to be heading for a romantic and happy outcome, but what about the curse?

With stunning special effects and winning songs, this is a great Christmas trip out for the whole family. Will evil triumph? Oh no it won't!

Head to The Anvil until January 2 to find out – you won't be disappointed.

• *Sue Holderness as Carabosse and Katrina Bryan as Princess Briar Rose*

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Thu, Dec 15 – Sat, Dec 17
The Haymarket, Basingstoke
THE RAT PACK
An all-new spectacular brings together the UK's number 1 Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jnr and Frank Sinatra for the first time ever in the most 'swingsational' show of the year.
The brand-new production combines the full sound of big band swing with the charisma, panache and swagger of the original trio, authentically capturing Dean, Sammy and Frank during their fifties and sixties Vegas heyday, and featuring all the patter and razzamatazz of the Rat Pack's infamous live stage show.

Fri, Dec 16, 7.30pm
Carol Concert
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, BLACKMOOR
Come and join Reverend Dominic Clarke and St Matthew's Church Choir as we celebrate Christmas with a very special Carol Concert. Enjoy singing all your favorite Christmas carols and experience exactly what Christmas is really about! All proceeds from ticket sales will be going to St Matthew's Church to support their charitable activities.

Fri, Dec 16, 8pm
New Greenham Arts, Newbury
BARB JUNGR
Celebrate the festive season with "Britain's best cabaret singer" and acclaimed international jazz recording and performance artist in this brilliantly created collection and collaboration.
With pianist Jenny Carr, Barb presents songs from every corner with her usual swing and panache, both traditional and from the box of surprises! Nodding to Dylan's Christmas album, Joni Mitchell and the great songs from all genres and persuasions of this special time of year, prepare to party (in an elegant jazz/cabaret kind of way).

Sat, Dec 17, 7.30pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
With silly songs, pitiful puppetry and more Dickensian daftness than you can shake a selection box at - a feast of festive foolery!

Wed, Dec 21, 2pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke
SLEEPING BEAUTY – RELAXED PERFORMANCE
We are delighted to present this specially adapted performance of our pantomime Sleeping Beauty, for those on the autistic spectrum and with other disabilities.
One of the most loved and enchanting pantomimes, Sleeping Beauty, returns.
Featuring traditional pantomime ingredients for the whole family, Sleeping Beauty's glittering costumes, sensational songs and dazzling dance routines are guaranteed to keep you awake!

Wed, Dec 21, 7.30pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon
WHITE CHRISTMAS
Over the last three years Rob has been working his way through his favourite Christmas films.
From It's a Wonderful Life, Rob's personal favourite, to Scrooge and Miracle on 34th Street. This year Rob has chosen White Christmas starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. Another classic, its finale is unashamedly pure Hollywood and will have you singing and rejoicing to Christmases past.

Thu, Dec 22, 2pm
The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon
THE CHRISTMASSY CHRISTMAS SHOW OF CHRISTMASSY CHRISTMASNESS
Squashbox Theatre's new show is a celebration of everything Christmassy, from fir trees, fairy lights, sleigh bells and snowflakes to crackers, carols, presents and puddings! Meet a snowman who lives in the fridge, try a nd spot some naughty elves, play hunt the brussel sprout, endure the world's worst Christmas jumper and gaze at the 'beautiful' Christmas fairy...

Fri, Dec 23 – Thu, Dec 29
Corn Exchange Cinema, Newbury
ALLIED
It's 1942, and secret agent Max Vatan (Brad Pitt) is tasked with eliminating a high-ranking German officer.
Vatan arrives in North Africa, where he meets and falls in love with French resistance fighter Marianne Beausejour (Marion Cotillard). Given the pair's perhaps incompatible agendas, it's a relationship that's under strain, and lethally so. Pitt is convincing as the conflicted officer and, with Cotillard delivering another nuanced performance, the chemistry is palpable.

Fri, Dec 23 – Thu, Jan 5
Corn Exchange Cinema, Newbury
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM
In 1926, young British wizard Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) arrives at America's Magical Congress with a briefcase containing various extraordinary creatures. After a mishap causes most of them to escape, mayhem ensues in Manhattan.

Fri, Jan 6 – Thu, Jan 12
Corn Exchange Cinema, Newbury
SNOWDEN
Having discovered that the US government was eavesdropping on the digital lives of millions of innocent Americans in the name of national security, Edward Snowden (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) took his story to The Guardian newspaper.

Thu, Jan 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm
The Haymarket, Basingstoke
THE WIZARD THAT WOZ
Follow our stars as they adventure from a busy A&E department to the magical land of ODD. How do they get there? How do they get back? Who is the mysterious Wizard? Come and find out and join in the fun.
Proceeds in aid of St Michael's Hospice, North Hampshire Medical Fund, Mind, Dementia Care, Firemen's Benevolent Fund.

Fri, Jan 13, 7.45pm
Corn Exchange, Newbury
JONGLEURS
Three comedians and a compère slickly prove that laughter is always the best medicine in our monthly Jongleurs! This ever popular end-of-the-week-treat is sure to provide mirthful merriment aplenty.
The line-up is always kept under wraps until the week of the show but Jongleurs guarantee the finest new faces on the circuit. See them here first - you never know who will end up being the next big thing.

Tue, Jan 17, 7.30pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke
TOMMY EMMANUEL
Two-time Grammy nominee Tommy Emmanuel, whose five decade career has garnered thousands of fans worldwide, will be bringing his passionate and infectious live show to The Anvil.

Wed, Jan 18, 7.45pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke
BERGEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
One of the oldest orchestras in the world, the Bergen Philharmonic-celebrated its 250th anniversary last year, and returns to The Anvil with its new Chief Conductor.

Thu, Jan 19, 7.30pm
The Haymarket, Basingstoke
T. REXTASY
T.Rextasy have now been performing around the world for over 20 years, and become widely accepted as the world's only official tribute show dedicated to Marc Bolan and T.Rex. The only band endorsed and approved by Marc's family, estate and catalogue management, not to mention original members of T.Rex, T.Rextasy has been described by many as 'beyond the boundaries of tribute'.

Thu, Jan 19 – Sat, Jan 21
Corn Exchange, Newbury
ANNIE
Based on the strip cartoon Little Orphan Annie, it is the story of Annie, an orphan living in an orphanage run by the sadistic Miss Hannigan, and her quest to find her real parents. She is invited to spend Christmas at the home of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, who offers to help Annie in her quest.

Fri, Jan 20, 7.30pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE
BBC Radio's multi award-winning antidote to panel games returns to the stage with its sell-out touring show. Join Barry Cryer, Tony Hawks, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Jeremy Hardy and host Jack Dee for an unmissable evening of inspired nonsense.

Basingstoke - Thatcham - Newbury Observer GROUP
Reader travel

ANDALUCIAN CAPITALS

Thursday departures, 11 May, 8 June, 7 September & 5 October 2017

Price Includes...
✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga†
✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
✔ 7 nights' half board at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera
✔ Excursions to Cordoba, Granada & Seville
✔ Guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
✔ Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife (Summer Palace) in Granada

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 8 June 2017.

To book call 01524 37500
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4 STAR SORRENTO,
Pompeii and the Isle of Capri

Selected departures, 5 May - 13 October 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 4 star Hotel Zi Teresa, Sorrento** (upgrades available at a supplement)
- ✔ Full-day excursions to the Isle of Capri and along the Amalfi Drive
- ✔ Half-day excursion to Pompeii, including admission
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from **£879pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: KTU347
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/KTU347

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 29 September and 6 & 13 October 2017.

LAKE GARDA

Saturday departures, 6 May - 30 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Verona†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Bisesti, Garda**
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

Optional excursions available to pre-book: The Dolomites, Venice and Lake Garda Tour

from **£759pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: FGN923
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/FGN923

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6 May 2017.

4 STAR DUBROVNIK,
Montenegro and Elaphiti Islands

Sunday departures, 7 May - 17 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park & Villas Park, Dubrovnik** (4 star Hotel Lapad available at a supplement)
- ✔ Excursion to Montenegro
- ✔ Galleon cruise to the Elaphiti Islands with lunch on board ship
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from **£929pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: QYE150
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/QYE150

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 7 & 14 May 2017.

PORTOFINO,
Cinque Terre and Tuscany

Saturday departures, 13 May, 3 & 10 June & 23 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Pisa†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 4 star Hotel Monte Rosa, Chiavari**
- ✔ Two full-day excursions by train and boat; to Santa Margherita, Portofino & Rapallo, and to the Cinque Terre villages
- ✔ Full-day excursion by coach to Pisa and Lucca
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from **£944pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: EVP200
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/EVP200

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 23 September 2017.

FLORENCE
and the Treasures of Tuscany

Saturday departures, 13 May, 17 June, 15 July & 16 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Pisa†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Reale, Montecatini Terme** (4 star upgrade available on some dates at a supplement)
- ✔ Full-day excursion to Siena and San Gimignano
- ✔ Full-day excursion to Florence
- ✔ Half-day wine-tasting excursion in the Chianti region
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

from **£774pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: CCN495
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/CCN495

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on all dates listed above.

Summer in the AUSTRIAN TYROL

Saturday departures, 24 June - 2 September 2017

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Munich†
- ✔ **7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Charlotte, Seefeld**
- ✔ Excursion to Lake Achen & Rattenberg
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to your hotel

Optional excursions to book in resort: Hidden Tyrol and Neuschwanstein Castle

from **£899pp** 8 days, by AIR

Quote Code: PUP364
View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/PUP364

The advertised price is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 24 June, 1, 8 & 15 July, 26 August and 2 September 2017.

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F-Pace – R-Sport 2.0d 180PS

By **Anthony Yates**

AT first you might look at the all new F-Pace and think OK, it's just another SUV that looks just like all the others currently on the market – so, why should I bother looking any further.

Well – I have a few good reasons why you should; firstly it's actually a very good looking SUV and secondly - it's built by Jaguar, and Jaguar at the moment are producing some of the world's greatest cars. And thirdly, the F-Pace is much better than anything that the German firms have come up with recently.

Design & Technology:

Let's start with the looks of the F-Pace – it looks amazing and far better looking than an Audi Q7 or a BMW X5 for that matter. Also, both of German offerings look terrible on the inside and look like they were designed in a studio with either all the lights turned out - or by a person who has literally no concept of the term 'ergonomics'.

So, there you go; The F-Pace R-Sport has everything you will ever need on the inside, along with its distinctive body line, bold front bumpers, large air intakes, chrome radiator surround, side power vents and wheels that are the size of the Moon (in a good way)

You are also treated to the best of the best when it comes to the interior that is frankly second to none. Standard equipment on the F-Pace such as; cruise control, front & rear parking aid, 5" full colour LCD display, DAB radio, EPAS,TPMS,LDW,ASPC and a whole host of additional equipment which will keep you engaged for many hours if not years.

Power and Efficiency:

The F-Pace is powered by a 2.0 Litre 4 cylinder AWD turbocharged engine that produces 180PS and 430Nm of torque. 0-60 comes in at around 8 seconds and will reach a top speed of 129mph. As with most Jaguar diesel engines – they are very refined and it will easily return 45mpg with little effort - mainly thanks to that frugal engine that sips fuel, not guzzle - along with Jaguar's combined Lightweight Aluminum Architecture which also makes the F-Pace very light for its size.

On the road:

The Jaguar engineers have done a fantastic job of getting the chassis to deliver the perfect balance and composure on the road - even when the road surfaces get more challenging, the F-Pace still holds the road really well with little drama that in turn inspires driver confidence if you do decide to drive it that little bit quicker.

Don't forget that the F-Pace also has something called Torque Vectoring technology – this provides controlled braking on the inside rear wheel which delivers an outstanding sports car feel.

To sum up:

Once again Jaguar has shown that they can continually produce some fantastic pieces of engineering and this is shown perfectly in the way the F-Pace out performs most of the competition not only in its design but in its ability to feel alive - a real driver's car this one.

Price:

£40,360 (Base Price OTR).

• *F-Pace – R-Sport 2.0d 180PS AWD*

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 36.2 (7.8)–85.6 (3.3); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9)–91.1 (3.1); combined 47.1(6)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO_2 emissions are 134–82g/km. Figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EU Legislation and may not reflect real life driving results.

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Miles: 135,000
MOT: May 2017
Colour: Silver
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MOT: Nov 2017
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MOT: June 2017
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MOT: August 2017
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MOT: August 2017
Colour: Autumn Gold
Price: £3,995 ono

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For Sale

WANTED. Old motor bike BSA or Triumph. Tel: 07760 378350

WOODEN blackboard with tray £8 Tel: 01256 468217

BAG knitting wool, different colour and plys. £8 Tel: 01256 468217

LEARNING chair £10 Tel: 01256 468217

WOODEN table for trains or cars £20 Tel: 01256 468217

PJASE Eight knitted coat. Only worn twice. £25 ONO Tel: 01256 466163

VINTAGE men's Burberry coat. Dark blue, size L good condition £10 Tel: 01256 466163

HOLLISTER 22 sweat shirt. Redm never worn. £15 Size XL Tel: 01256 466163

LADIES bike. Red, old but in very good condition. Kame: Hercules. 26" wheel, 3 speed £35 ono Tel: 01189 833865

MAHOGANY door, new still in polythene. Glass pattern top. Size 33"/78" £45 Tel: 01189 833865

COLLECTORS model cars, buses, military, army, RAF, tanks, commercial vehicles. Mint condition. All boxed £2 - £35. Will negotiate Tel: 01252 845165

FOR sale. Collection of 12 Beanie Babies. Assorted types. Buyer collects Tel: 07778 344546

ONE pair of bath taps. New, crossed head. £4 Tel: 01189 812350

DRAPER Mitre Cutter in box. £5 Tel: 01189 81235

ROOF rack for Vauxhall como van. Still in box. Cost £25 will take £40 Tel: 01189 812350

BLACK and Decker small Kango hammer and drill in case £9 Tel: 01189 812350

MURPHY 1950s electric upright valve trans radio £10 Tel: 01189 667940

TV stand black vitreous glass. 2 tier takes apart. New condition £10 ono Tel: 01635 299837

RUG oval shape. Deep rose. 4'x 2'6". Wool, beautiful condition £10 ono. Tel: 01635 299837

SHREDDER. Rexel HS60 electric paper shredder. New condition £8 ono Tel: 01635 299837

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ONE nearly new lady's winter coat. Large size. Dark brown hide skin. Thick, woolly. £50 buyer collects Tel: 07999494199

LARGE box of wrestling figures. WWE, Mostly still packaged. £80 welcome to view. Tel: 07747 577890

FOUR Daimler hub caps with Daimler logo. £50 Tel: 01189 700015

MIRROR 44x34 Bevelled 4mm. Silvered glass. 2" ornate gold edging. Tel: 01635 32621

CD player boom box with AM/FM radio. Goodmans. £10 Tel: 07722460199

WALKING frame seat £10 Walking frame £5 Tel: 01256 363521

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4 board games. Excellent condition. Ideal for Christmas Tel 01256 323231

ROCKING horse VGC B&W with saddles£50. Junior electric guitar. Black in box, new £20 Hardly used Tel: 01256 341829

CARPENTERS Workmate £5 Christmas tree and decorations £10 Tel: 01635 827560

TECHNICS PCM keyboard KN650 with stand. Very good condition £75 Tel: 01189 323656

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SMALL armchair. Light green £25 Tel: 01256 389255

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DIMPLEX Cadiz 3KW deluxe heater. Used once. Pristine. Genuine reason for sale. £100. No offers. Boxed. After 1pm Tel: 01635 868764

AA Badge, yellow, chrome wings on top. Number 8C33954. Good condition. Offers Tel: 01635 863963

WANTED. Moped, scooter or motorbike. Running or not, old or new to keep me busy. Cheap please. Tel: 07873 385198

ACRYLIC double blanket. Brand new. Never used. Cream £10 Tel: 01256 389255

ALMOST new bike. Suit 8 year old £20. Bargain. Tel: 07835 635786

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Public Notice

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: Land to the Rear of 108 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5DT. I give notice that Ressance Limited having applied to West Berkshire Council for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of 7 No. new flats.

Ressance Limited is appealing to the Planning Inspector against the refusal of the Council to grant planning permission for the proposed development (16/01414/OUTMAJ).

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: West Berkshire District Council, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, Berkshire.

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application/appeal, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice. Any representations should be sent to appeals@westberks.gov.uk

Signatory: Mr Duncan Crook

Date: 15 December 2016

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RUG Laura Ashley Malmaison duck egg blue 170cm x 240cm. VGC, selling due to change in décor £75 Tel: 01635 298482

ONE new winter lady's coat. Medium size. Real hide. Dark brown. Was £200 going for £70. Real thick wool. Tel: 07999 494199

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SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424781**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

LAURA, 45, slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424871**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 424543**

TRACY, 40, lively bubbly, young looking brunette seeks outgoing, fun male to spice up her spare time. Call if you feel the same. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424845**

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for dinner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 425059**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTM male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 425039**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424675**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me if you want a genuine fun time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424779**

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424777**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424775**

MAUREEN, 42, fun bubbly blonde, home alone and in need of some TLC, seeks adventurous discreet male for fun/friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424767**

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SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424671**

LADY, 50, green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424631**

ANNE, 45, cuddly bubbly female, very affectionate looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth male. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424825**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424491**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

CRISTINA, 45, sensual slim female needs more buzz in her life would love to be wined/dined by a tall fit male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424795**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no timewasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424783**

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

man seeking

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ALI, 42, athletic build, WLTM a lady of around the same age, for fun and to see where it goes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424757**

MALE 62 med build n/s GSOH kind caring many interests seeking female to spend good times and hopefully LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 4631948**

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424679**

PETER, young 70s gent, seeks tactile white lady, 30-65, for travel, dining out, concerts, passport essential for holidaying abroad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424967**

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422**

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424681**

SINGLE male 44, medium build, 6ft, looking for a lady for TLC maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 4359515**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424687**

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424685**

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 424683**

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BARBER SHOP

'Stoke drop down the table after suffering double defeat

By Christian Wilson

BASINGSTOKE Town have dropped into the bottom half of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier, after losing twice in the space of four days.

Terry Brown's side have now lost each of their last three league matches, with Chesham United and King's Lynn Town the latest sides to come away with the three points.

The defeat at Chesham on Saturday proved to be a particularly disappointing day out for 'Stoke supporters, as their side were completely overrun in the second half, to lose 4-0 in Buckinghamshire.

And Town then found themselves on the wrong end of a 2-1 defeat to King's Lynn at the Ark Cancer Charity Stadium to drop down to 13th place – eight points above the relegation zone.

Basingstoke were given an early warning on Tuesday night, as Toby Hilliard's looping header clipped the crossbar, before Dan Quigley then headed his side in front from close range 20 minutes in.

But after in-form forward Nana Owusu had rattled an 18-yard effort against the post, King's Lynn struck again four minutes before half time through Lee Stenson's low drive.

'Stoke came out much stronger in the second half, and pulled one back through Aaron Jarvis in the 68th minute, with the young striker capitalising on some lax defending to make it 2-1.

But with King's Lynn then switching to six at the back, and keeper Alex Street in fine form, Town just couldn't grab a second, with Jarvis compounding the frustration by hitting the post in injury time.

The post also stood in the way of Basingstoke taking an early lead at Chesham on Saturday, as Owusu fired a trademark free kick from the edge of the area against the woodwork.

And after seeing Romone Rose and Charlie Kennedy then come close, 'Stoke fell behind in the 33rd minute, as Darren Purse flicked on Dave Pearce's cross into the path of Brad Wadkins to score.

But after being well in the tie, things fell apart after the break, as Drew Roberts fired in Sam Youngs' cross, before then hitting the post minutes later.

And with Basingstoke on the ropes, Chesham then ran away with it, as Roberts and Youngs both beat goalkeeper Alex Tokarczyk for a second time to make it 4-0.

• *Aaron Jarvis scored his side's only goal from the two fixtures, in the 2-1 loss to King's Lynn Town (Picture by Daniel Murphy)*

Sport Bites

Hallahan departs

FOOTBALL: Basingstoke Town announced on Monday that an agreement had been reached to terminate the contract of top scorer George Hallahan by mutual consent.

The striker was one of the few members of last season's squad to remain at the club, having come through the academy, and scored nine goals from 12 starts in all competitions during this campaign.

A club statement said: "The club fully understand George's current needs.

"And although we are disappointed to be losing a local player who has developed through our academy, the club wishes George every success in the future, and thank him for his effort and goals at Basingstoke Town."

International duty

ICE HOCKEY: Basingstoke Bison's Vanya Antonov was unable to prevent his Great Britain under-20s side from falling to two defeats.

The teenager featured, as GB were beaten by Slovenia in their opening World Championships Division One Group B game.

Liam Kirk, Cameron Pound and Sam Duggan all netted in Sunday's tie in Budapest to take the game to overtime, where they were beaten 4-3.

And GB were then handed a 5-1 hammering by hosts Hungary 24 hours later, with Connor Glossop netting a consolation goal.

Duff double

FOOTBALL: Two super strikes from Steven Duff helped Hartley Wintney FC to their 20th win of the season on Saturday.

The midfielder lashed two 30-yard free kicks into the top corner, as his side emerged with a 3-1 home win over Epsom and Ewell.

Duff's brace followed an early goal from the visitors through Matt Farrell, with Sam Argent firing in a third, after Epsom's Matt Taunton was sent off.

Sheppard frustrated following another loss to rivals Flames

DOUG Sheppard was "incredibly frustrated" with his Basingstoke Bison side's 4-2 defeat to Guildford Flames.

Saturday's tie represented the third time this season that the Stampede have found themselves on the wrong side of a result against their big rivals.

And after seeing Kevin Phillips claim the crucial third goal late on for the visitors when the Flames had a man advantage, the Herd head coach blamed his side's reaction to the powerplay for the loss.

He said: "Although we controlled most of the game, I'm incredibly frustrated by this loss.

"We did a lot of good things very well, but special teams was the difference.

"Special teams are the most difficult thing to get right.

"We're practicing together as a full team all week, so I'm sure we'll be ready for five on five, powerplay, and penalty kill for the double header with Bracknell next weekend."

Sheppard gave debuts to new signings Dan Scott, Joe Rand, and Joe Miller during the clash at the Basingstoke Arena, and insisted he was "impressed with them all".

He added: "They all made a positive impact in the team, and I look forward to many more good things from them."

• *Doug Sheppard (Picture by grantkingphotography.com)*

Basingstoke back to winning ways

AFTER a week off, Basingstoke RFC were finally given the chance to bounce back from their heavy defeat to league leaders Eastleigh with a win on Saturday.

'Stoke saw off US Portsmouth 26-13 at Down Grange to make it four victories in five matches, despite playing at a level far below their best.

The 31-3 defeat to Eastleigh had threatened to disrupt Basingstoke's momentum, and they found things tricky early on as some sloppy play handed Portsmouth two penalties, to put them 6-0 up.

But after one of the visitors' players was sent to the sin bin for repeated infringements, Jonny Till's converted try ensured Gareth Hatherley-Hurford's side went into half-time one point ahead.

A sloppy start to the second half saw 'Stoke go back to square one however, as Portsmouth grabbed a converted try of their own to make it 7-13.

The visitors wouldn't score again after that though, as Simon Appleby, Dave Lambert and Ed Mallaby all went over the try line to eventually give Basingstoke some breathing space.

'Stoke now sit in fourth place in London 3 South West, going into Saturday's tie at Weybridge Vandals.

• *Basingstoke RFC in action*

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Inside: Two defeats for Basingstoke Town | Basingstoke RFC back to winning form | Sheppard 'frustrated' with defeat

Bison suffer a scorching loss to the Flames

By Christian Wilson

BASINGSTOKE Bison's recent poor form continued with another defeat to Guildford Flames on Saturday.

The Herd's biggest rivals handed them a 4-2 reverse in the weekend's only game at the Basingstoke Arena – to make it three defeats out of three meetings this season.

Bison's fine October and November form has dissolved recently, with them losing five of their last seven English Premier League games.

Before that, Doug Sheppard's side had been in scintillating form, with two defeats to the Flames providing the only blemishes to runs amounting to 12 victories out of 14 games.

That change in fortunes followed the bold decision to replace summer signings Petr Polodna and Jakub Barton with Derek Roehl and Jan Jarabek at the end of September.

Bison boss Sheppard looked to repeat the trick last week by releasing Jarabek and Shaun Thompson and replacing them with new signing Dan Scott, and returning former favourites Joe Miller and Joe Rand.

All three made their debuts on Saturday, but the Stampede lost once again, to drop a place to fifth in the league.

Flames' netminder Dean Skinns was kept busy, facing 40 shots to opposite number Tomas Hiadlovsky's 17.

But after Roehl and Ciaran Long were denied during a frustrating opening period for the hosts, Bison finally found a way past Skinns 1:16 after the break, with Hiadlovsky, of all people, grabbing the assist.

As Guildford looked to make the most of their first powerplay, the Herd goalie skated from his crease to lay a perfect pass on for Tomas Karpov, who then broke up the ice and fired the puck low into the five-hole.

But after Rene Jarolin fired wide from close range, the Flames levelled on 24:31 through Kevin Phillips with the final goal of the period.

Within 82 seconds of the third buzzer, it was 2-1 to Guildford however, as Michal Satek buried a chance past Hiadlovsky.

But from Bison's next powerplay on 45:55, they levelled, as Jarolin followed in Declan Balmer's blocked effort to make it 2-2.

Phillips then benefited from a massive stroke of luck to claim his second of the match to make it 3-2, as the defenceman's shot deflected off Balmer's skate and into the net.

The Herd threw everything forward for an equaliser, with Miller seeing an effort blocked by Skinns and Hiadlovsky leaving the ice to allow an extra attacker. But this backfired when a save by the Guildford netminder, with four seconds remaining, fell kindly for his side to break up the ice and present Satek with a simple fourth goal into an empty net.

Next up for Bison is a home tie against Bracknell Bees on Saturday.

• *Declan Balmer closes his eyes in disappointment as Basingstoke Bison lose to Guildford Flames (Picture by grantkingphotography.com)*

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